

NASA

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, after the Space Shuttle *Columbia* tragedy, it is clear that we are now very dependent on the Russian space program as the sole means of support for the Space Station until the Shuttle fleet returns to service.

It is certainly conceivable that the Shuttle fleet could be grounded for some time—after the *Challenger* accident in 1986, the Space Shuttle fleet was grounded for 32 months.

While the *Columbia* investigation is moving forward, there is always a possibility that the root cause of the accident may never be determined with absolute certainty.

In the aftermath of the *Columbia* accident, it may be impossible to maintain the Space Shuttle's viability without help from the Russians.

Payments by NASA to Russia to cover the costs of purchasing additional Soyuz and Progress vehicles appear to be prohibited under the terms of the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000.

The Iran Nonproliferation Act provides a narrow exception, allowing the President to request a waiver from Congress only to prevent the imminent loss of life or grievous injury to individuals aboard the International Space Station.

But I believe the Administration needs even more flexibility under the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000 to cover the costs of additional Soyuz and Progress vehicles at this time.

Therefore, I am introducing legislation today that amends the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000 to allow NASA to purchase additional Soyuz and Progress vehicles if the President notifies Congress they are needed to ensure the safety of the crew aboard the International Space Station and to maintain its operational viability while the Space Shuttle fleet is grounded.

The safety of our astronauts should be paramount. NASA should not be prevented from doing whatever is necessary to ensure that safety is maintained.

DR. ALLAN H. MELTZER HONORED
BY RECEPTION OF THE FIRST
IRVING KRISTOL AWARD

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Allan H. Meltzer upon receiving the first Irving Kristol Award at the annual dinner of the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) last night. Dr. Meltzer's insightful lecture on international economics and the role of the United States in world affairs immediately followed an historic address by President George W. Bush.

Dr. Meltzer was recognized for his important contributions to monetary economics, economic history, and political theory. He has recently written a well-received and definitive history of the first several decades of the Federal Reserve System.

Dr. Meltzer also served as chairman of the International Financial Institution Advisory Commission, which made a series of recommendations for reform of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and other development banks.

He also has testified before Congress many times, including before the Joint Economic Committee on several occasions. The members of the Joint Economic Committee have benefited from Dr. Meltzer's expertise over the years, and I also appreciate his serving as a consultant to our committee. This award from the American Enterprise Institute to this distinguished scholar is well deserved.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS DAY**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, National Peace Corps Day, on February 28, recognizes the important role the Peace Corps has played over the last 42 years and reaffirms our country's commitment to the mission of the Peace Corps, as vital today as it was over 40 years ago.

The first Peace Corps volunteers were sent to Ghana in 1961. When the Peace Corps celebrated its 40th anniversary 2 years ago, the United States also celebrated an important 40-year relationship with Ghana. Today, Ghana is the leading developing nation in west Africa, and thousands of Ghanians now have personal relationships with Americans which they would not have had without the Peace Corps.

Loret Miller Ruppe, the Director of the Peace Corps under President Ronald Reagan, was an impressive visionary and leader. She had the first vision of doubling the number of Peace Corps volunteers. In the army, a division consists of 10,000 soldiers. We now have 12 divisions in the U.S. Army. Loret Ruppe believed we should have at least one division in the Peace Corps. This vision of expanding the Peace Corps was renewed by President Clinton and reaffirmed by President Bush.

I want to commend the new direction of the Peace Corps for working to recruit not just the 22-year-old volunteers, but increasing the number of volunteers who are in their forties or fifties and choosing the Peace Corps as their second or third career. This new type of volunteer brings years of his or her technical expertise to places around the globe which need it most.

The Peace Corps has successfully altered its programs and the countries in which it operates to adapt to our changing times. Most recently the Peace Corps has expanded into Central Asia and the Balkans continuously working to improve the lives of countless people, while also working to improve U.S. relations with these emerging democracies.

National Peace Corps Day recognizes all Peace Corps volunteers, past and present. I would like to express my gratitude to those who have served overseas, committing 2 years of their life to their country and to democracy around the world. I would specifically like to recognize the 38 current volunteers from my district who are serving in six continents around the globe.

RECOGNITION OF LATINO AND IMMIGRANT WORKERS OF THE PHOENIX PROJECT**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many Latino and immigrant workers of the Phoenix Project. This project encompassed the restoration of the west front of the Pentagon. We are all familiar with the horrific event that caused the Pentagon to require reconstruction. Perhaps less known, though, are the workers who restored the Pentagon in record time and under budget. When terrorists attacked the United States on September 11, 2001, they hoped to paralyze our country with fear, to break our spirit. The Phoenix Project, however, reflects the exact opposite. Three thousand workers, the majority of whom were from Latin America, descended upon the Pentagon with voracious energy and an unending willingness to help rebuild their newly adopted country.

The work they performed was back-breaking: pouring cement, installing plumbing lines, and hanging limestone slabs. Many traveled great distances to the Washington, DC area to work, living and sleeping in crowded hotel rooms. Despite these hardships, these workers labored tirelessly around the clock and throughout the weeks. It was evident to all that the Phoenix Project workers were incredibly proud to be involved in the restoration and renovation of the Pentagon. Their enthusiasm was infectious and quickly drove the project to completion. According to Walker Lee Evey, Program Manager of the Phoenix Project, "Workers came to the managers and said, 'If you'll tell us to get this building rebuilt in a year, we'll do it. We can do that!'" And do that they did, with determination and pride that is seldom seen.

I myself feel honored to stand here today and commend their actions. I am also proud to introduce a House Resolution today applauding their efforts, which, is being cosponsored by all 20 members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. At a time when many Americans are suspicious of immigrants, the Phoenix Project workers put aside hard feelings to fully restore this uniquely American symbol. They serve as a symbol of humanity and hope. Their motivation, devotion, and discipline should be honored by all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO LISA WALLACE**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say goodbye to a long-term staff member and good friend, Lisa Wallace, who is moving on to work for the House Resource Committee. This is an enormous loss for me and my staff because Lisa has been with me for nine years—beginning with my congressional campaign in 1994.

Throughout my years as a member of Congress, Lisa has always gone above and beyond her job responsibilities. As my Administrative Assistant, she has not only provided